

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A holding device for an ultramicrotome, ~~having an oscillatory microtome cutter (2),~~ the device comprising:

a cutter having a cutting edge,

a stationary cutter holder, and

a piezoelectric element, the piezoelectric element having a first supporting surface and a second supporting surface, the first supporting surface being fastened on the cutter holder and the cutter being fastened on the second supporting surface, the piezoelectric element being adapted to oscillate said cutter relative to said cutter holder,

wherein the cutter is supported on the cutter holder exclusively by the piezoelectric element and is otherwise freely suspended on said cutter holder.

~~wherein the cutter (2) is arranged on a cutter holder (1) and can be set oscillating by means of a piezoelectric element (3), characterized in that the cutter (2) is supported by the piezoelectric element (3).~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) The holding device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in~~

~~that wherein~~ the cutter (2) is made in one piece of unipartite design and preferably consists of diamond.

5. (Currently amended) The holding device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the piezoelectric element is adapted to oscillate the cutter (2) ~~can be set oscillating in a fashion at least approximately along a direction that is substantially parallel to its the cutting edge (21).~~

6. (Withdrawn) The holding device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the piezoelectric element (3) has a piezoelectric crystal or a piezoelectric ceramic (32) that is operable in a shear mode.

7. (Currently amended) The holding device as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first and second supporting surface is surfaces (30, 31) extend in a plane-parallel fashion to one another the first supporting surface, and ~~in that wherein~~ the cutting edge (21) extends along a direction that is substantially at least approximately parallel to these the first and second supporting surfaces (30, 31).

8. (Currently amended) The holding device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the cutter holder (4) has a groove (10) ~~that has~~ having two side walls (11) and a groove base (12), the groove base (12) ~~being designed as forming~~ an oblique surface, ~~and serving~~

~~as fastening surface for the piezoelectric element (3) being fastened to said surface, and the groove (10) having a width that is greater than the width of a blade holder (22) of the cutter (2).~~

9. (Withdrawn) The holding device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the piezoelectric element (3) has a piezoelectric crystal or a piezoelectric ceramic (32) and a piezo holder (33), in that the cutter (2) is fastened on the piezoelectric crystal or on the piezoelectric ceramic (32), and in that the piezo holder (33) is arranged on the cutter holder (1).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) An ultramicrotome comprising a holding device ~~having an oscillatory cutter (2) as claimed in claim 1, and having a sample holder block, (4) and, fastened thereon,~~ an oscillatory sample holder (6) for holding a sample (7) to be cut by means of the cutter (2), and

a second piezoelectric element, characterized in that the sample holder (6) is being fastened to said sample holder block and being supported in a freely suspended fashion on said sample holder block exclusively by said a second piezoelectric element, being otherwise freely suspended (5), which is connected to the sample holder block (4), it being possible for the second piezoelectric element (5) to be operated being operable in a shear mode.

12. (New) The holding device as claimed in claim 1, the cutter comprising a blade holder and a blade, the blade defining said cutting edge, and the blade being mounted on said blade holder.
13. (New) The holding device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the blade is removable from said blade holder.
14. (New) The holding device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cutter consists of diamond.
15. (New) The holding device as claimed in claim 8, the cutter being made in one piece and having a predetermined width, and the groove having a width that is greater than the width of the cutter.
16. (New) The holding device as claimed in claim 8, the cutter comprising a blade holder and a blade, the blade being mounted on said blade holder, the blade holder having a predetermined width, and the groove having a width that is greater than the width of said blade holder.